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THE USD VISTA

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Torero Jamal Agnew drafted by NFL



Photo courtesy of USD Toreros/Twitter

USD's career leader in passes defended, Jamal Agnew is the first Torero drafted since 2008. Read the story, Page 16.

Life Week event discusses mental health

ELISABETH SMITH
News Editor

"Are you okay? Can I help you? Is something wrong?" These are questions that Kevin Hines wanted to hear the day that he jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. No one asked Hines these questions, and he made the decision to jump. Against the odds, Hines survived the jump and has shared his story with audiences across the country. On April 24, Students for Life hosted the event "The Bridge Between Suicide and Life" as part of the group's annual Life Week. Life Week

focuses on topics that affect the dignity of all human life, including suicide, immigration, abortion, homelessness, and domestic violence. At the event, three men spoke about their experiences with mental health issues and suicide. Kevin Briggs, a former California Highway Patrol officer, worked on the Golden Gate Bridge and often negotiated with suicidal people to come back over the railing. Joel Merchant, an Australian police officer, survived a terrorist bombing in Bali and now works to improve mental health education. See LIFE WEEK, Page 2



Photo courtesy of Joey Dato

Kevin Hines, a man who survived jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, spoke to the USD campus during Life Week.

People's Climate March in San Diego



Glenn McDonell/The USD Vista

Participants in the People's Climate March showed off their homemade signs promoting science and Earth conservation legislation.

See SCIENCE MARCH, Page 2

NEWS

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ELISABETH SMITH
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ASST. NEWS EDITOR
TAYLER
REVIERE VERNINAS

Alumnus to be recognized for local stories

TAYLER
REVIERE VERNINAS
Asst. News Editor

In the world of journalism, stories focus on global and national news. Tuning into local news is a way to find out what is affecting the regional community.

Matt Hose, a 2015 graduate of the University of San Diego, has embarked on a journey toward educating individuals within his community through local news stories. Since 2016, Hose has been working for Marin County's "The Ark Newspaper" which covers the cities of Tiburon and Belvedere in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Hose explained that he was unsure if he wanted to pursue a career in journalism after graduation. However, after he interviewed with the current editor of "The Ark Newspaper," he accepted a position to work at the print-only publication, which has about 2,500 subscribers. "I am the Belvedere Crime, Courts, and Public Safety Reporter at The Ark," Hose said. "I cover the Belvedere City Council, Planning Commission, and other smaller boards like the Parks Commission. I also cover two fire districts, a recreation district, and have previously filled in to cover a high school district. I keep tabs with the police and visit the station to see if any weird crimes or trends are happening."

The publication he works for has won 11 statewide first- and second-place awards for reporting, design, editing, and photography among newspapers of its size in the year of 2016. "The Ark Newspaper" has received about 100 awards since 2011, including being named a National General Excellence Finalist for its circulation size by the National Newspaper Association in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Hose's journalism career started with his

involvement with The USD Vista, his reporting internship at the Voice of San Diego, and the opportunities of meeting and discussing with knowledgeable professors as an undergraduate. As a former news editor at The USD Vista, Hose said that he understands the investigative work involved with diving deeper into certain local issues.

"I am a big believer of how powerful local news can be, especially with the national media landscape not really looking good," Hose said. "Local news is where you tell these real stories that nobody else would. It can be an amazing story, but it is about keeping your ears open and being willing to accept that anything can be a story. I enjoy covering these stories of the local city on such a detailed basis because I am the only one doing that and have the power to bring these stories about."

Hose described his recent investigative news story regarding the sterilization of deer, which was featured in "The Ark Newspaper."

"The city of Belvedere was debating on whether or not to sterilize the deer of the city," Hose said. "The people of this beautiful island with hedges and ivy thought there were too many deer and the city was divided on what to do. I wanted to find out if this sterilization procedure they proposed was humane. After much investigation, I received the consensus that it was an accepted method being used around the country."

Hose was excited for the opportunity to write what he claimed was a big story.

"It was a moment in which I had the opportunity to educate a whole city on this issue," Hose said. "It became the talk of the town."

In addition to the support he garnered from the town, Hose has received three honorable mentions and blue-ribbon finalist awards for an Enterprise News Series about federal flood zone regulations and their effects

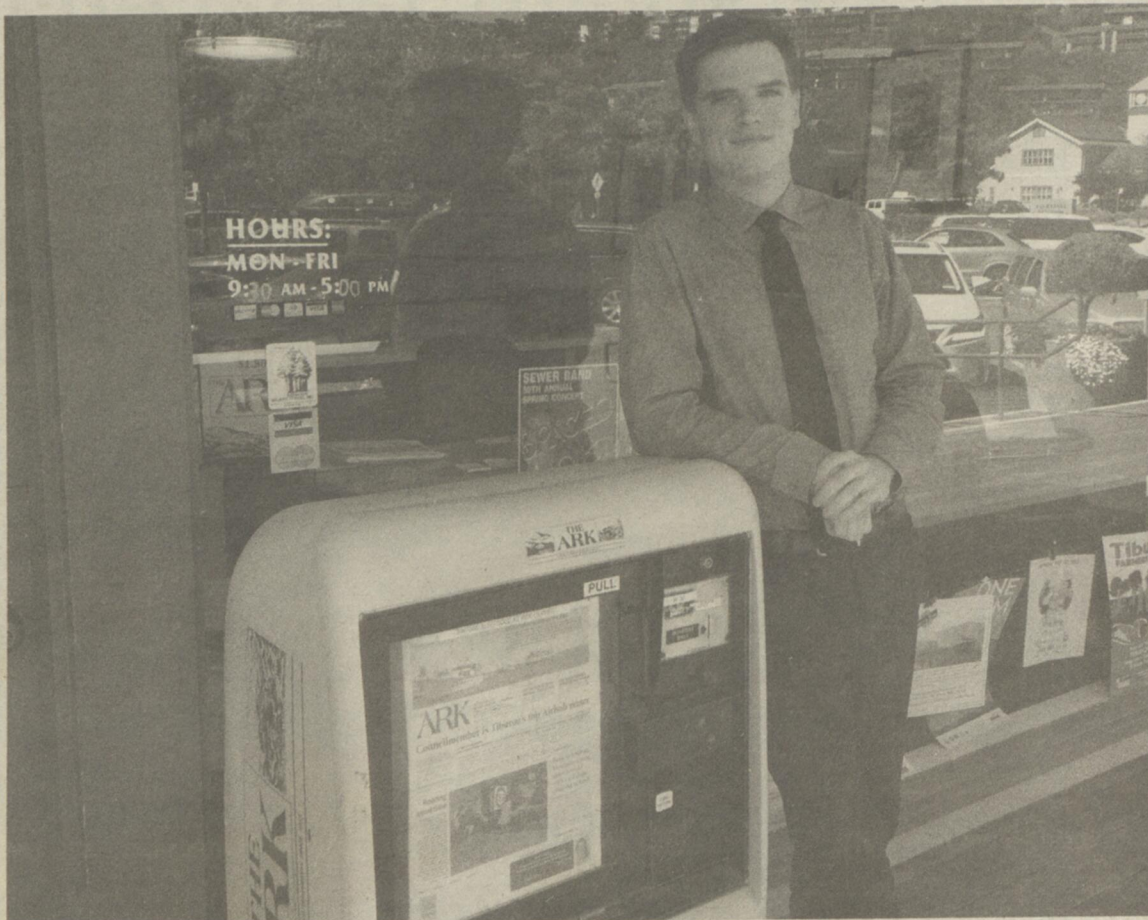


Photo courtesy of Matt Hose

Matt Hose writes for The Ark Newspaper, a local print-only publication in Marin County.

on local residents. Other honorable mentions also included best Sports Feature Story about a swimmer who kept going despite a heart condition and Coverage of Local Government for a series of stories about a local debate over sterilizing the deer in the city. "The Ark Newspaper" will be notified mid-May on whether they won first- or second-place from the California Newspaper Publishers Association in the following categories: Coverage of Breaking News, Coverage of Education, and Coverage of Local Government. The newspaper covered stories about a local man who saved a woman and was stabbed nearly to death in her backyard, a high school community's plea to save a mental health and wellness center amid budget cuts, and a group of bus riders' effort to keep a dedicated bus line running to San Francisco.

Hose reflected on his past experiences as a USD undergraduate.

"I loved USD, going to classes, and nerding out on all my school readings," Hose

said. "My favorite part about The [USD] Vista was that you had all of these incredibly intelligent people at the top of any field all around you at anytime. I also had a blast with some of the late nights on Tuesdays spent at The [USD] Vista office. That 9 p.m. feeling when you've been crammed for eight or so hours in a room with 10 people and everything becomes funny—you really can't beat it."

Hose said that he thoroughly enjoys interviewing the people of Marin County, learning about their lives, and writing stories that he believes everyone wants to read.

"I want to continue to do what I am doing hopefully one day in a major city, really covering things in-depth that others are not covering," Hose said. "I would love to do more with poverty and issues migrant communities are facing. But for now, I like what I am doing and I am in no rush to leave."

Hose said that he believes a good relationship with a newspaper's editor is the most important one and the reason he stays as a staff reporter

with "The Ark Newspaper."

"It is important to build that trust with another person," Hose said. "I trust that my editor will let me pursue this article and he will tell me how it is. Meanwhile, he trusts that I am going to try my best."

An international relations major and Spanish minor, Hose shared some advice for current students, especially graduating seniors.

"We rush into our careers after college, but you don't have to do that," Hose said. "You can take it slow and feel out what you want to do. Your certain major does not dictate what you do with your life."

In the future, Hose hopes to continue reporting and editing.

"I don't have any set trajectory right now to be honest," Hose said. "I think a lot is in flux in the journalism world, so I try to keep an open mind about where I could end up. But in general I'd love to report internationally for a while, or focus really deeply on one particular issue in a city—something like housing, education, or immigration."

THE USD VISTA

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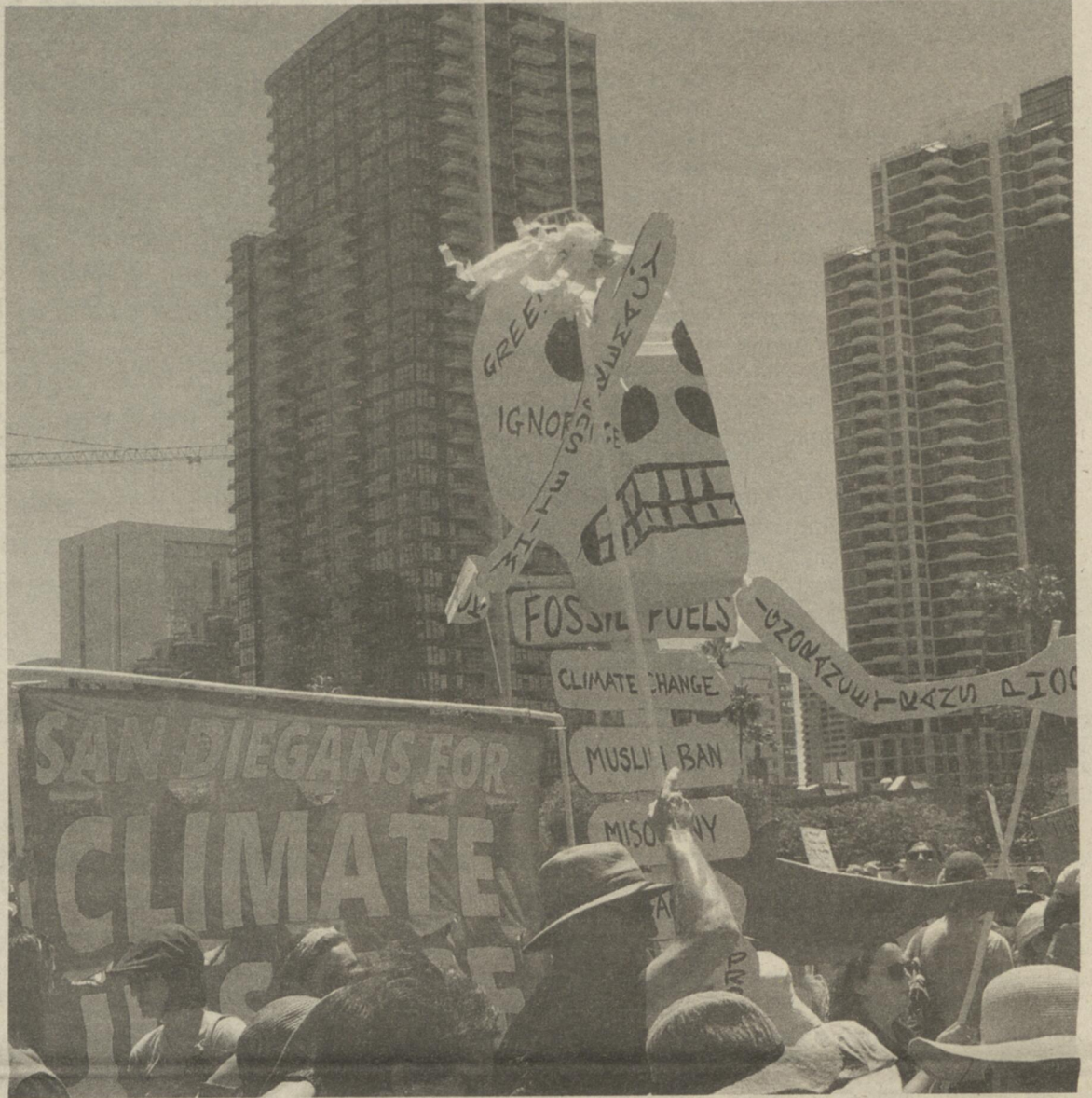
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Letters to the Editor can be submitted to The USD Vista office. Letters should be limited to 300 words and must be signed. For identification purposes, USD identification numbers and writer's year must be included in the letter. The USD Vista reserves the right to edit published letters. Any content sent to the editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise stated.

San Diegans march again

San Diegans and many University of San Diego students gathered to march in solidarity with the People's Climate March in Washington D.C., last Saturday. Hundreds of activists gathered at Waterfront park to call on leaders to use clean energy sources and oppose the federal government's roll-back of environmental protection policies.



"The Bridge Between Suicide and Life" event addresses mental health

LIFE WEEK continued
from Front Page

for his police forces. Hines spoke about his battle with bipolar disorder and how he manages his suicidal thoughts.

Students for Life co-president Miranda Rappoldt spoke about the origins of the event, "The Bridge Between Suicide and Life."

"The intention behind the event was simply to educate our campus on this issue, especially in the context of life," Rappoldt said. "As a pro-life club, we are called to promote life from conception until natural death, and this is certainly an issue that can take away from the inherent dignity of life."

According to Rappoldt, Students for Life chose to include suicide in Life Week last fall. She said that they picked suicide because it is an important issue, and it would capture campuswide attention with speakers.

Rappoldt explained that the different speaking styles of Briggs and Hines allowed the event to look at suicide from different points of view.

"As both men are very different speakers and share upon different parts of this complex issue, we decided bringing them both would create for a unique event that shared both the mental health side of suicide and also the 'how can we help' side," Rappoldt said.

Rappoldt said that she thinks the event sparked conversation around campus. Even when a third speaker was added to the event, she said the speakers captivated the audience for the entirety of the night.

"Mental health is a topic that isn't always talked about, and I think, especially when we are looking at mental health in the context of suicide awareness and prevention, it is important to look at the facts, understand what is going on, and how we can respond to the bigger picture of the issue," Rappoldt said. "The reality is that there are more people struggling with this than we think, so it is best to bring it into the open and talk about it."

Stephanie Lynch, the Director for Health Promotion at the Center for Health and Wellness, stated one way the University of San Diego works to prevent suicide is through mental health check-ins.

"In 2013, USD received a three-year grant dedicated to suicide prevention (SAMHSA's Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant) and, through this process,

we were able to implement multifaceted enhanced efforts related to mental health promotion and suicide prevention across campus," Lynch said. "Holding mental health screening events, such as ours, is considered a best practice for many reasons, particularly in working to reduce the stigma of seeking help and making resources easily available to students."

This opening night of Life Week focused on breaking the silence around mental health and openly talking about the issues.

Junior Madeleine Stockton attended the event. Stockton said that the speakers shared their stories and important messages compassionately.

"I think talking about mental health issues is something that is very important," Stockton said. "These issues are relevant for so many people today, and I think hearing other peoples' experiences allows us to be a more accepting society."

Stockton explained why she thought that these events can be impactful. She said that one of her favorite mental health discussions is "My Story," an event hosted by the Changemaker Hub.

"People need to know that they are not alone in these things and how to get help and support," Stockton said. "Although I think these are sensitive topics, if done in the correct way, talks like [Life Week] can be life changing for some."

Stockton expressed that she is grateful for events such

Suicide warning signs

If a person talks about:

- Being a burden to others
- Feeling trapped
- Experiencing unbearable pain
- Having no reason to live
- Ending their life

Specific things to look out for include:

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to commit suicide, such as searching online for materials or means
- Acting recklessly
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from family and friends
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away prized possessions
- Aggression

People who are considering suicide often display one or more of the following moods:

- Depression
- Loss of interest
- Rage
- Irritability
- Humiliation
- Anxiety

Anyone who is in an emotional crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts can call the:

USD Counseling Center: (619)260-4655
 USD Student Health Center: (619)260-4595
 National Suicide Prevention Hotline: (800)273-8255
 OR Text "Help" or "CNQR" to 741741

Information from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

as this one, which focused on mental health awareness.

"I think it is incredibly important to have these discussions continued,"

Stockton said. "I'm so grateful that we have a community here on campus that puts these kinds of events on. If these speakers only reach

one person in the room, I count that as a victory and something worth continuing."

Junior Katie Rossi was also in attendance and said that she appreciated the blunt conversation.

"I think it's important," Rossi said. "Many people suffer from these issues and suicide for the most part is considered taboo. When we talk about it in a blunt way, we are acknowledging that it does exist and promoting an open dialogue."

Allowing for candid conversation about mental health and suicide at this event furthered the destigmatization of these issues on USD's campus. Hopefully future events will continue in this fashion.

Anyone who is in an emotional crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts can call the National Suicide Prevention hotline, 800-273-8255, to speak with counselors at any time or the San Diego Access & Crisis hotline, 888-724-7240. For the USD community, a counselor on-call is available to consult about after-hours psychological emergencies at all times. The counselor on-call can be reached by calling Public Safety, 619-260-2222.

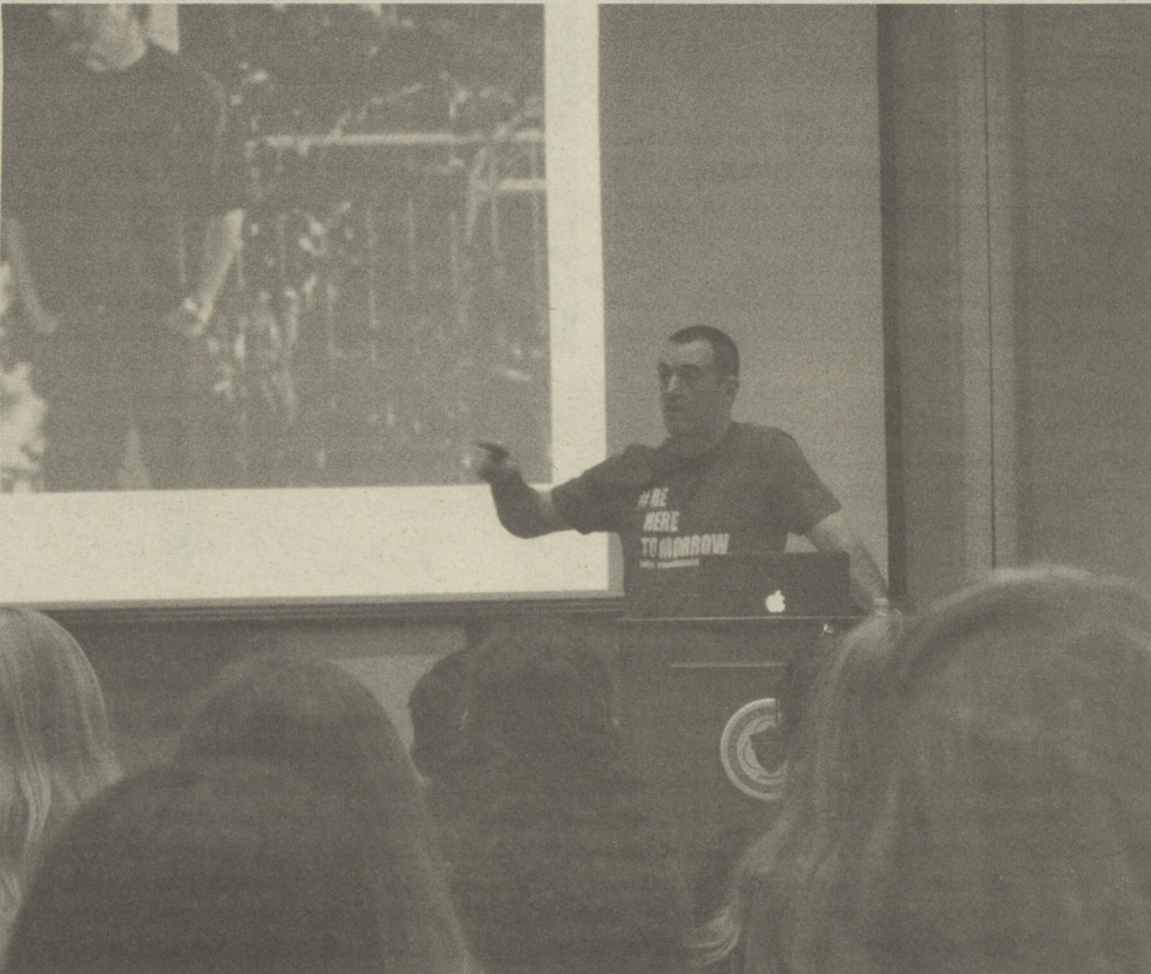


Photo courtesy of Joey Dato

Joel Merchant, an Australian police officer, survived a terrorist bombing in Bali and now works to improve mental health education for police officers.

ARTS & CULTURE

A&C EDITOR
WALKER CHUPPE
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ISO open mic night celebrates diversity

WALKER CHUPPE
Arts & Culture Editor

The University of San Diego often celebrates diversity and multiculturalism, especially through the participation of international students who represent a vast array of cultures and traditions on campus. After last year's initial success, USD's International Student Organization (ISO) hosted its 2nd annual open mic event in Salomon Hall. ISO showcased performances of traditional and contemporary music, dance, and comedy.

A lighthearted and lively event, ISO's open mic night was a fun experience for both international and domestic students. The event fostered bonds between cultures, and the welcoming atmosphere helped anyone in Salomon Hall feel at home.

The event is open to all USD students and all students

had a list of around eight performers who had signed up prior to the Apr. 27 show. After the arranged performers, the stage was opened to anyone else who desired to play in front of a lively crowd. In between acts, students were able to try a variety of Indian cuisine provided by ISO, which brought some unique flavors to USD.

Sophomore Aryaman Madireddy kicked off the event with some stand-up comedy based on his life experiences. While it may be daunting to debut new stand-up material in front of a crowd, Madireddy took the moment in stride and with great spirit.

The audience was responsive as well: from the start until the last performances, the atmosphere was fantastic. Students filled the seats and standing areas in the hall—it was a relaxed multicultural event for all USD students.

Junior Christina Saad shared her thoughts on her experience in the audience

"The best part about the music is that it goes beyond borders and defies language barriers."

-Christina Saad

are encouraged to perform. Performances ranged from stand-up comedy to traditional Arabian music, and all of the acts seemed well-received by an enthusiastic audience.

The open mic event

at ISO's open mic night.

"The best part about music is that it goes beyond borders and defies language barriers," Saad said. "ISO open mic night was a night of celebrating one another and



Walker Chuppe/The USD Vista

Cyrus Lange and Abdullah Sultan perform a unique cover of The Smiths.

discovering the hidden talents in the people around us."

Students from India, Saudi Arabia, England, China, as well as other countries performed at the open mic, and collaborated with a few domestic students as well. Sophomore Abdullah Sultan played an instrumental version of "Hotel California" by the Eagles with senior Khaled Alaskar. Their rendition was a unique take on the classic American song. Sultan played the vocal melody on the oud, a traditional Middle Eastern stringed instrument, while Alaskar strummed the backing chords on guitar. The two blended

multiple cultures with their version of the popular song.

"It was great to have an opportunity to share my culture and hobby with other members of the USD international community," Sultan said. "And I was never nervous because everyone there was family."

The open mic wrapped up with a few solo guitar and singing performances. As the event came to a close, the crowd demanded for sophomore Cyrus Lange to go up and play a song. In a humorous scene, Lange was joined by Sultan on stage with the crowd cheering their names.

The two played a rendition of The Smiths' "Please,

Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want," with Lange playing guitar and singing, and Sultan backing him up on the oud. The performance ended with hoots and hollers from the crowd. It punctuated the open mic night nicely.

In a time when the current political climate isn't always welcoming to foreigners, it's encouraging to see USD students doing their part to create open spaces for people to exchange cultures and have a good time. No matter what country they are from, it seems this event proves that Toreros can all share in the joy and laughter of good music and good times.



Walker Chuppe/The USD Vista

Abdullah Sultan with his oud, a traditional Arabian instrument.



Walker Chuppe/The USD Vista

Coco Wei performs her version of an authentic Hawaiian hula dance.

"13 Reasons Why" sparks controversy

WALKER CHUPPE
Arts & Culture Editor

If you were part of the reason why someone close to you committed suicide, would you want to know?

The popular Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" explores this concept in detail, along with many other difficult topics related to suicide. The show has had the social media world buzzing since its March 31 debut, largely because of its sensitive subject matter.

Following backlash from individuals sensitive to the graphic nature of the show, Netflix has pledged to add further trigger warnings to the series.

Despite its few narrative flaws, "13 Reasons Why" has recently become one of the most discussed

suicide. The tapes refer to events that took place before Hannah's eventual death—events that led her down a dark path toward ending her own life. Clay is implicated as one of the instigators of her downward spiral, or at least as a bystander who never took action to help her.

The series explores a number of themes related to suicide and the difficulties of being a high school student. Alongside depression, peer pressure, bullying, and sexual assault, the show explores grief and coping, and presents a fairly honest depiction of emotional scenes. Baker's sad and disturbing tapes, as well as Jensen's interactions with his classmates, come across as genuine. Because of this, it can be easy to be pulled into the series.

"13 Reasons Why" has become the subject



Photo courtesy of @marcobert_/Instagram

Dylan Minnette and Katherine Langford have career-making performances.

these issues. The plot centers around Baker's tapes—the purpose being to inform others of the adverse effects of their actions or of the shortcomings of bystanders. Though the focus is on suicide, the message can be applied to any of these topics that are often swept under the proverbial rug.

Dylan Minnette and Katherine Langford give admirable performances as Clay Jensen and Hannah Baker. Selena Gomez was cast for the role of Baker, but she thought it would be better for someone else to play the part.

Gomez, instead, was an executive producer on the show. It seemed to be a good move to have someone less recognizable in the spotlight, since the series was in danger of being too "Hollywood."

Some critics argue that the series romanticizes suicide. A prominent adolescent psychiatrist, Dr. Harold S. Koplewicz, has spoken out against the show, urging that it be pulled off the air immediately. Koplewicz, the president of the Child Mind Institute, said he sees "13 Reasons Why" as an irresponsible and unethical show, citing that teenagers are often vulnerable.

He continued to explain that the show promotes

suicide as a coping method for loneliness and depression, rather than showing suicide as a permanent and irreversible end to life. Koplewicz believes it will not be long until we see an increase in suicide rates because of the show's prominence. His criticism goes against other reviewers' praise of the show for its commentary on bullying and suicide.

Where "13 Reasons Why" tends to fall short is in its variance within its narrative. The show is heavy and emotional, but at times, it can become monotonous and draining. Though there are positive moments, the on-screen material is typically depressing to get the point across, which can make the show into a bit of a downer.

The series also focuses substantially on the people oblivious to Baker's internal struggles. Although it is an important part of the plot, it becomes too much of a stereotypical trope, especially among the adults in the show. Nearly every adult is a cookie-cutter, mindless individual who dismisses Baker's cries for help. It seems there were opportunities missed to create a few more multidimensional characters.

The month of May is also Mental Health Awareness

Month, which has aimed to bring attention to mental health issues in America since its creation in 1949. Previously, mental health problems were often left untreated or dismissed as unimportant, but the month's "Break the Stigma" campaign is attempting to change how mental illness is viewed in America. "13 Reasons Why" is the latest popular show that mentions mental health issues and places it in public view.

With the stress of school, especially with finals coming up, we often feel substantial pressures in our daily lives. We all deal with it in different ways. We can all benefit from a break from studying at the beach or any San Diego hotspot to get some sun for a mental health day.

For any students who might feel overwhelmed or are in need of assistance, or just someone to talk to, be sure to seek out on-campus resources, including the Counseling Center.

Anyone who is in an emotional crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts can call the National Suicide Prevention hotline, 800-273-8255, to speak with counselors at any time or the San Diego Access & Crisis hotline, 888-724-7240.



Photo courtesy of Netflix US & Canada/YouTube

The infamous tapes Hannah Baker left behind.

shows on television and on streaming services. The series covers topics that are often avoided in the public eye and reinforces the need for awareness about suicide, bullying, and sexual violence.

The main character, high school student Clay Jensen, is given a series of tapes recorded by his friend, Hannah Baker, before she committed

of praise, criticism, drama, and memes online, largely as a result of its various available interpretations.

The show has been praised by many for its mainstream portrayal of suicide, sexual violence, and bullying. If the series has an overarching message, it would be likely that society could use a wake-up call on a number of

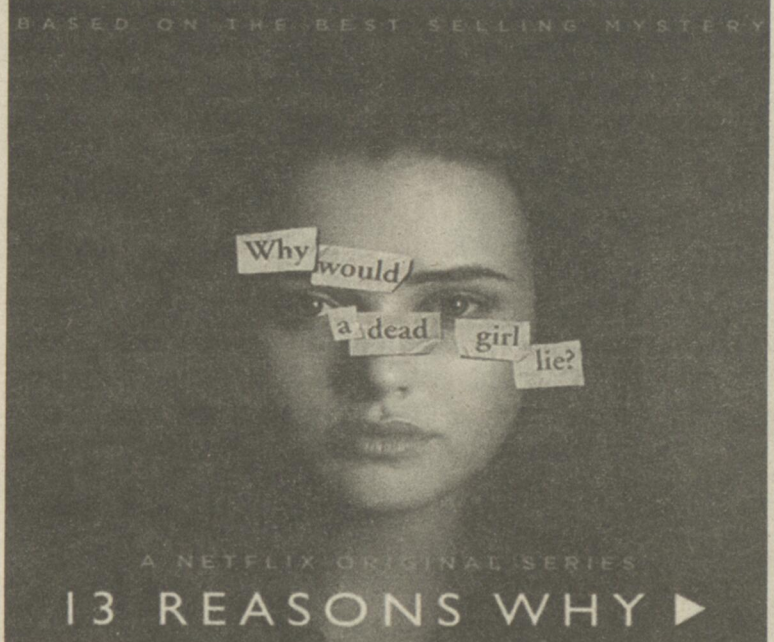


Photo courtesy of @themamaproject/Instagram

"13 Reasons Why" is based on a bestseller by Jay Asher.



Screenshot courtesy of Netflix US & Canada/YouTube

Clay Jensen riding his bike has become one of the most recognizable images from the series.

FEATURE

FEATURE EDITOR
KELLY KENNEDY

ASST. FEATURE EDITOR
JENNIFER GIVENS

Course evaluations do matter

The tenure track: how professors achieve the coveted status



Photo courtesy of Michael Kristenson

At the end of each semester, students have the chance to evaluate their professors through course evaluations.

SARAH BREWINGTON
Associate Editor
and
KELLY KENNEDY
Feature Editor

At the end of each semester, students have the opportunity to critique or praise professors during teacher evaluations. These mysterious, classified pieces of paper are kept carefully out of professors' reach until after grades have been submitted—and for good reason. Teaching evaluations are taken into account when a professor is considered for tenure.

To many students, tenure is merely a mark of professorial status based on their number of years of teaching experience.

"Tenure is sort of that stamp of approval from the university saying 'We're backing the work that you do, we support you, we give you full academic freedom to do the things that you do scholastically, we've vetted you, and we want you here.' That goes a long way."

-Brad Melekian

To professors, tenure is an important and nationally-recognized status bestowed on professors who are committed to academia and have fulfilled stringent requirements.

According to USD's Rank and Tenure Policy, tenure is defined as the right to continuing employment for a faculty member until the faculty member resigns

or retires according to other university policy.

The University of San Diego has a specific tenure track process, which is not unlike the tenure tracks at other universities. The review process is conducted primarily by a Rank and Tenure Committee composed of 10 or more tenured faculty members.

There is a seven-year probationary period for faculty members wishing to pursue tenure. The tenure decision must be made in the sixth year of the process. Exceptional performance can be reason for an accelerated tenure process. If a professor with five years of previous professorial experience did extraordinary work, they could possibly reach tenure faster.

There are four main criteria for consideration for tenure at USD: teaching; research, creative work, and professional activity; university and public service; and support of the mission of the university. In the case of the University Library, librarianship also contributes to tenure consideration.

Three pieces of evidence

can be offered in favor of or against a candidate for tenure: colleague, student, and self evaluations.

Sophomore Luc de Luca takes end of the semester course evaluations seriously.

"They are the only definite means for students to voice their opinions and concerns," de Luca said. "If they were granted to students at the end of their course and weren't treated with the level of openness and earnestness that they are intended to be met with, then why administer them at all?"

Jillian Tullis, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of communication studies. Tullis has taught at USD for two years and was previously tenure track at the University of North Carolina.

"Although I am new to USD, I brought three years of service with me, which means I'm in the middle of the tenure schedule," Tullis said. "I guess a good analogy is that I'm kind of like a transfer student. I'm bringing some of the work I did while I was at University of North Carolina at Charlotte with me to USD. I'm sort of like a junior and will be a graduating senior next year, if that makes sense. So next year, I will apply for tenure."

Tullis noted that the evaluation portion of the tenure process can be stressful.

"There is a lot at stake, and most professors want to do well in all they do," Tullis said. "Imagine if your classmates got to decide some of your fate, whether or not you get to graduate or

not. Even if you do well in your classes, you still have to have your peers affirm your work."

Brad Melekian is an assistant professor in his second year of the tenure track. He spent seven years as an adjunct professor at USD before starting the

"If [course evaluations] were granted to students at the end of their course, and weren't treated with the level of openness and earnestness that they are intended to be met with, then why administer them at all?"

-Luc de Luca

path to tenure. Melekian commented on the importance of review in academia.

"Generally, the idea of review is a good thing if you're going to give someone a job for life," Melekian said. "In comparison to the private sector, it can seem sort of archaic as a review process, but I think it's good."

Melekian said he thinks that tenure evaluations are also a great opportunity for professors to evaluate themselves and improve their teaching styles.

"I can personally choose to take it one of two ways," Melekian said. "I can choose to think about it as 'I'm being judged,' or I can look at it that every two years I'm given the opportunity to reflect on my work, what I'm doing well, and what my shortcomings are in a genuine and holistic self-evaluation."

Tenure is considered an important status in

universities across the nation. The American Association of University Professors explains that tenure is meant to safeguard academic freedom so that university faculty cannot lose their jobs because of their speech, publications, or opinions.

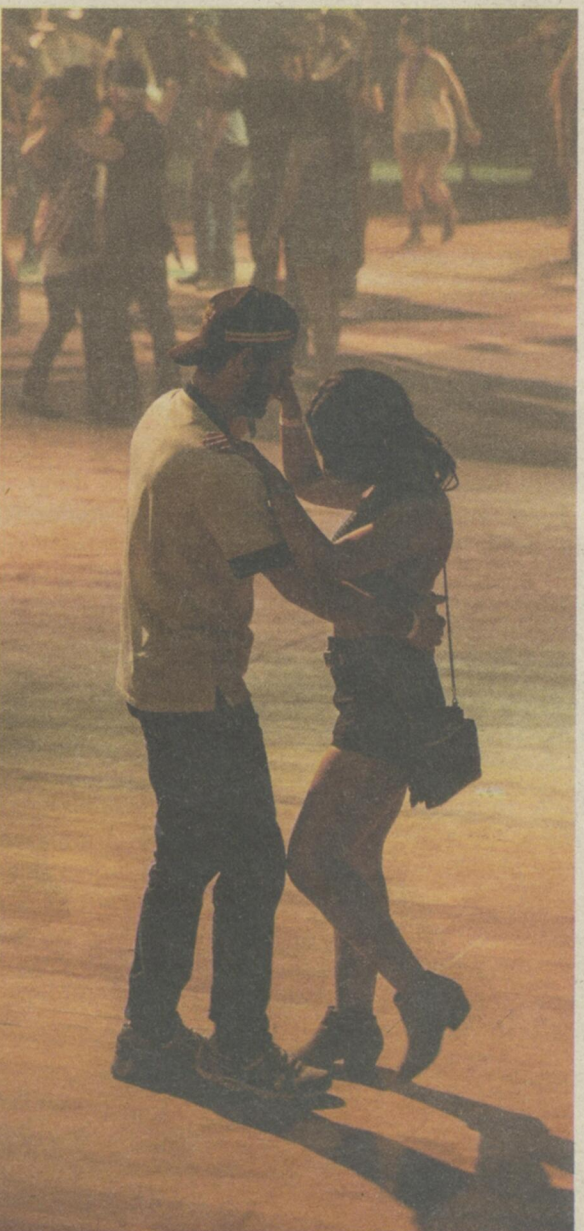
Tullis shared that she believes tenure is more than a lifelong job offer.

"Tenure isn't just about having a job for life," Tullis said. "Its real value is that it increases a faculty person's academic freedom. It allows them the protection to push the boundaries of their field."

Melekian agreed, saying that tenure provides an emphatic vote of support from the university.

"In a pragmatic sense, tenure is job security," Melekian said. "But I think in terms of the university, I try to live really holistically, and USD is a huge part of my life and always has been. Tenure is sort of that stamp of approval from the university saying 'We're backing the work that you do, we support you, we give you full academic freedom to do the things that you do scholastically, we've vetted you, and we want you here.' That goes a long way."

STAGECOACH



DIEGO LUNA
Managing Editor

Stagecoach: the festival where people turn in their flower crowns for cowboy hats. The blistering heat, gusty winds, and the overpriced food didn't seem to slow down the thousands that wandered the Empire Polo Grounds this past weekend.

Students at the University of San Diego were no exception to this cultural phenomenon. Many of them packed bandanas, leather boots, and drove off into the California desert seeking an experience different than its sister festival Coachella. The little to no grass left on the polo fields and endless mounds of sand allowed for occasional dust clouds to rise into the atmosphere. The dust made the red, white, and blue bandanas donned by many a necessary accessory at the country festival.

Although both Coachella and Stagecoach cater to their respective fans, Stagecoach seems to have a more niche following. Actually, it seems to be that Toreros enjoyed Shania Twain's performance more than any of the other headliners.

Senior Kolby Riley shared his thoughts on Twain's performance.

"My favorite performance would have to be Shania Twain," Riley said. "I grew up listening to her, so that was an awesome moment with my family and my mom especially."

Senior Emily Burke spoke about her two favorite performers.

"I love Dierks, and Shania was so good," Burke said. "I thought [her set] was amazing. That's how Shania kind of is, you know? She's like a classic 90s country pop star."

Country star Twain was clearly the focal point this year, and she delivered with a humble, rocking set with pyrotechnics in front of a massive crowd on a windy Saturday night. In addition to her classic fan-favorites, Twain included material off her highly-anticipated album. There were, however, other aspects of the festival that made the 2017 festival a memorable one.

Friday

Country music duo Maddie & Tae were one of the afternoon treats on the Mane Stage. During the mid-afternoon heat wave, 1960s band The Zombies and 81-year-old Jerry Lee Lewis delighted the older fan base under the Palomino shade.

Jon Pardi threw a country party singing his most famous tunes to the thousands who flocked to his performance as the sun began to set in the California desert. Soon after, Cole Swindell's energetic show put fans on their feet and off their lawn chairs.

Both Pardi's and Swindell's sets drew large crowds and were welcomed by everyone. In fact, once Dierks Bentley finally got up on stage, he invited Swindell and Pardi to join him for the party.

Saturday

The largest crowd before Twain's headlining performance without a doubt belonged to Willie Nelson and Family. Nelson packed the Palomino Tent and had bodies overflowing in every single direction on Saturday afternoon.

sunday

Los Angeles band Los Lobos allowed for festival goers to travel back in time and relive their greatest hits from the 1970s. Tyler Farr, Thomas Rhett, and Kenny Chesney followed, delivering spectacular back-to-back performances on the Mane Stage. Rhett especially wowed the crowd with a surprise cover of Bruno Mars' 24K Magic.

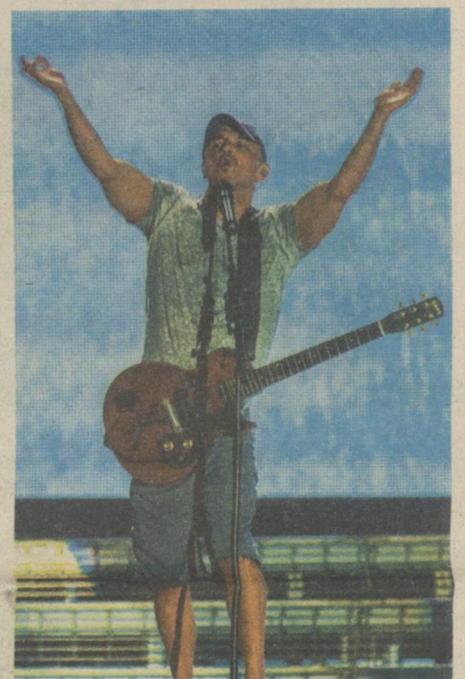
This year also marked Chesney's third appearance as a Stagecoach headline act. Chesney opened with his song "Beer in Mexico" and enthusiastically greeted fans. Chesney gave another dynamic show, one that'll leave any country music aficionado talking until next year's festival.

the artwork

Art installations seem to be a staple at these massive music festivals. Whereas Coachella had a vibrant and expressive color scheme, Stagecoach had a more conservative approach with their agrarian props, including farm tractors, a rearing steel horse, scattered hay stacks, and a pair of 50-foot cowboy boots. Although the Stagecoach artwork was not as flashy and multi-colored as Coachella, its unique aesthetics seem to match its loyal fan base.

the verdict

Despite the rough desert weather, Stagecoach seemed to be a delightful experience for many, especially Toreros who attended. Stagecoach's maturity truly manifested itself this year when scheduled artists brought out more guest appearances than in the past. Stagecoach has surely grown from a scrappy, smaller, countrified version of Coachella into one of the most widely-known and well-attended country music festivals in the world.



Photos courtesy of Goldenvoice Media
Nora Brewington/The USD Vista

The music festival fascination

Reflecting on the history and culture of Southern California music festivals



Photo courtesy of Goldenvoice

Many college students look forward to festivals at the end of April and beginning of May.

CAMILLE HAYWARD
Contributor

Coachella. The word has been ringing in millennials' ears since the lineup was released in January.

This three-day musical festival held in Indio, Calif. is associated with all genres, from indie pop bands to number one rappers on Apple Music. Coachella is a culture. Its history is rich, its music loud, and the environment indescribable.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Coachella

and Stagecoach combined had an overall economic impact of \$704 million in 2016, with a 99,000 person per day attendance during Coachella's six days. Although the hype can seem irritating, it is real and captivates both first time attendees and returners.

Coachella is 18 years old, originally launched in 1999 with headliners such as Beck, Chemical Brothers, Tool, Morrissey, and Rage Against the Machine. The festival dates back before the days of Drake and The Black Keys.

It was inspired by popular musical festivals like Woodstock, as well as Pearl

Jam's 1993 concert also held in the Empire Polo Club. In fact, Coachella announced its unveil a week after riots broke out at Woodstock's 1999 festival. Coachella promised to shine a new light on the shadow that was cast over music lovers. The first festival was a two-day event, and general admission tickets were only about \$50 a day, a drastic difference to the wholesale price of \$400 for a ticket today.

Fast forward 18 years. The air is filled with the scent of stale cigarettes, celebrities and models strut to and from each stage in vintage denim. Not only have the vibes changed, but the damage on your wallet has as well.

Music lovers posting on Coachella's official message board noted that, on average, people spend around \$1,000 for the three-day extravaganza. This includes a ticket, food, transportation, and housing. That's not to mention the hundreds of dollars that some spend on extravagant outfits for the occasion.

Coachella is kind of a mess — a hot, trendy, musical mess. Many argue it's becoming more of a fashion show with a trendy geotag than a place to really listen to the artists. The festival is drawing more than just band aficionados, and now appeals to celebrities and middle schoolers alike.

So what makes it worth the high costs and overwhelming heat? Strip back the clothing, flash tattoos, and pink hair dye, and Coachella becomes what it should be: a music festival. You can

be as musically obscure as you like, and Vanessa Hudgens would bet her favorite choker there's a band somewhere in the Lady Gaga-Marshmello mix for everyone.

Over the years, the lineups have made drastic changes. Now, it seems to be following a pattern: a classic band, an A-list rapper, and a wild card. With this wide array of music genres, the crowd is just as diverse as the music

Sophomore Macrae Martinez, a second year Coachella attendee, explained how her friends negotiated set times.

"A lot of people just go now for the DJs, and I mean, yeah, those are definitely a fun time, but seeing bands like the 'xx' outside with your best friends by your side is what it's all about," Martinez said. "Good company and good music."

Although Coachella

"A huge part of [Coachella] is the music obviously, but it's the people you're with that will always resonate with you. It's crazy."

-Ciara Paradise

festival itself, which adds to the unique and quirky vibe that Coachella emulates.

Sophomore Ciara Paradise, a fourth year Coachella attendee, discussed her affinity for the festival.

"I've always had fun at Coachella, but this year was truly the best weekend of my life," Paradise said. "A huge part of it is the music obviously, but it's the people you're with that will always resonate with you. It's crazy."

Paradise added that she was in good company among her sorority sisters, and felt as if she was in another world at the festival.

Staying in large groups is nearly impossible, especially when having to decide between conflicting artist set times. Instead, most people find it best to stick with four to five people they vibe with both personally and musically.

seems intimidating to those who don't keep up with festival trends or the latest DJ Snake trap music, sophomore Anthony Grasso expressed that he felt comfortable.

"Overall, [Coachella was] a very welcoming environment with great vibes the whole weekend," Grasso said.

Coachella is mind boggling in all ways. The people, the music, the heat, and the mental and physical tolls it takes on your body is a lot for anyone. So how do you do Coachella right in the up and coming years, other than ensuring you have a Camelbak with water, a pair of round sunglasses, and mental preparation for the Sahara Tent? Be with good people because, as sophomore and DJ fanatic Daniel Busky puts it, at the end of the day, "the atmosphere of Coachella is like nothing else."



Photo courtesy of Goldenvoice

The ferris wheel is a staple at the Empire Polo Fields.

OPINION

OPINION EDITOR
DANI DEVRIES

ASST. OPINION EDITOR
TARYN BEAUFORT

Tips for financing your fun summer

By Dani DeVries

With summer just around the corner, it means more free time for University of San Diego students normally devoted to focusing on classes, jobs, and organizations they may be a part. With this added time off comes more time spent out with friends, out and about doing activities, and incurring more costs. To make the most of your break—and stay on budget—try these tips to maximize summer savings.



Focus on free activities:

Summer is great because it means it is warm enough to spend a lot of time outdoors. Instead of blowing all your cash on costly activities this summer, try out some free ones. Go to the beach, on a hike, or to a community-sponsored event, like movies or concerts in the park. By taking advantage of what your community and environment have to offer, you can cut expenses.

Head home:

As great as San Diego is, opting to go home instead of sticking around for the summer can save a lot of money. Rather than paying for an extra three months of rent, groceries, and utilities, you can spend the summer back home with your family and eliminate most of these costs. This means that, instead of giving your paychecks directly to your landlord, you can actually spend the money on what you want to do.

Ditch dining out:

As nice as it can be to grab a bite out with friends, going out to eat on a regular basis can be incredibly pricey. Cooking at home saves a ton of money, especially if you use ingredients that are in season. Plus, cooking is typically a healthier option than dining out.

If you can't cook, or just enjoy the social aspect of going out, try hosting a potluck instead. Have everyone prepare a dish, bring it to the park for a picnic, and you'll still get to share a meal with all of your friends.

If it's the convenience of delivery you're addicted to, consider meal-prepping. Sure, you still have to put in some effort. By preparing your meals ahead of time, it should take the stress out of cooking, especially when you're tired from work and getting a little hangry.

Take a side job:

If you can't hold down a normal summer job because you have an internship or are taking classes, there are still options to make some extra money. Babysitting, tutoring, or working for delivery services like Postmates, all allow you to pick your own hours and work as much or as little as you want. That way, if you have other commitments, you can still generate some cash flow.

Cut costs where you can:

Even if you don't want to limit yourself, there are still ways to save money doing or buying whatever you normally would. Always make sure to utilize coupons, promotional codes, free trials, and sites like Groupon when you can. Also consider taking advantage of off-peak times, like happy hour deals on food and drinks or matinee prices on movies—you'll get the same product for a fraction of the cost. If you need to do a lot of shopping, consider waiting for sale times. Stores will normally have deals around holidays, so think about saving major purchases for around Memorial Day and Fourth of July.

Start a piggy bank:

No, I don't mean a literal piggy bank, unless that's your jam, in which case no judgement. It's the same principle. Squirrel away money each week so that at the end of the summer you've saved up enough to do something awesome. Whether this means tucking away your change every week, or transferring five or ten dollars into a special savings account each month, simply by saving over time, you'll accumulate a nice little nest egg. How big the sum is depends on how much you invest each week, but by the end of the summer you're sure to have enough to treat yourself a bit. Whether that's a night out with friends, a concert, or a vacation, it's up to you.

Nora Brewington/The USD Vista

Seniors feel the pressure of post-grad plans

ALEXIS FAHEY
Contributor

"So, what are your plans after graduation?" This is the dreaded question for most college seniors. Whether it comes from family or strangers, it causes a major amount of anxiety. With graduation less than a month away, seniors at the University of San Diego are feeling the stress.

It's interesting how just four years ago, most of us as high school seniors were excited to share that the following year we were heading to San Diego to go to college at USD. Now, elaborating about our future plans seems to take on a much different verbal response.

Growing up, many students were told that if they go to college, the world would be their oyster. However, many students are finding this to not exactly be true, as the job market is very competitive, and it's difficult to land a good job straight after graduation.

Seniors at USD seem to fall into one or more of five categories in terms of plans after graduation: a paid or unpaid internship, a job,

graduate school, traveling or volunteering, or no plans yet. Regardless of which categories students may fall into, there seems to be the same amount of anxiety surrounding the discussion of their plans.

Remarkably, some seniors have landed what seems to be their dream job right after college, including senior Noah Thomas. Thomas casually explained his out of this world plans.

"I'll be moving back to my home state of Colorado to work with Lockheed Martin as a software engineer," Thomas said. "I'll be working with their Space Systems division. I'd love to go to space, but most likely I'll be developing next generation satellite and rocket technology."

While software engineering may be the perfect fit for Thomas, everyone's passions are unique. Senior Mary Sutton has employment plans that fit her lifestyle.

"After graduation, I'm staying in San Diego and working in marketing for the medical cannabis industry," Sutton said. "Alongside that, I'm getting my feet wet in other industries, like tea and festivals. I'm excited to stay in beautiful San Diego and work where I love."

Some students are pursuing professional degrees by going to graduate school. Many students have shared that they believe having a master's degree benefits them when looking for a job.

This is the case with senior Blair Butler who will be attending

"I will be working with individuals recovering from homelessness, mental health issues, and substance abuse disorders through an urban farm therapy program in downtown St. Louis."

"I am going to Creighton for medical school in Omaha, Nebraska," Machek said. "All of my family is in California, and I have always lived here. I am really nervous to leave my family and friends in San Diego, since almost all of my friends are staying, but I am so excited to experience something new

Jesuit Volunteer Corps next year, living in St. Louis, Missouri, with five other Jesuit volunteers," Wertzberger said. "My position is called 'City Seeds Coordinator,' which means I will be working with individuals recovering from homelessness, mental health issues, and substance abuse disorders through an urban farm therapy program in downtown St. Louis."

Other seniors, including Julia Sepulveda, are taking the time after graduating to travel before entering the workforce. She is planning to travel all around the United States on a roadtrip to visit as many National Parks as possible.

"I wanted to do something fun but also educational in my last free summer before I begin work as a tax associate at an accounting firm this September," Sepulveda said.

While many students worry about what to do post grad, USD's class of 2017 is filled with students taking all sorts of unique paths after graduation. Although this is an overwhelming and anxious time for many, these students are forging paths for themselves that they are excited about. Whatever you choose to do post-graduation, know that you are in good company.

-Brenna Wertzberger

graduate school in the fall.

"I am going to University of California, Santa Barbara to study education because I need to get a credential in order to teach," Butler said. "Plus, having a master's gives me an advantage when looking for a job. My goal is to be a first grade teacher."

The process of moving far away from friends or family for a job opportunity or school can add to the anxiety seniors have after graduation.

Senior Megan Machek is stepping outside her comfort zone to attend medical school in Nebraska.

and different, and begin the process of becoming a doctor."

The job market isn't easy for many students immediately after graduation, so many decide to seek a paid or unpaid internship to gain experience.

One type of unpaid internship is a year of service, sometimes found within organizations such as the Peace Corps or various religious organizations.

Senior Brenna Wertzberger will be leaving USD after graduation and spending the next year serving as a Jesuit volunteer.

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Students weigh in: job vs. internship

LILY ESPINOZA
Contributor

Most students at the University of San Diego are looking to develop marketable skills and gain invaluable work experience to build up their resumes, resulting in a lot of talk about internships. At the same time, many college students look to earn some cash, while working toward earning their degree. It seems, then, that they prefer getting a paid internship to generate the revenue they seek.

Often, many who accept an unpaid internship are focused on a long-term goal. They may do it for the opportunity to learn a new skill, gain some real world life experience, and hopefully stand out enough to get the employer's attention and

at a radio station because I wanted to gain experience, in the hopes that it would serve me better than an internship I did not have as much interest in, and took just for the money," Patterson said. "I made future decisions based on that internship because it fit my ideal career interest and it has helped propel my interest in radio. If a similar paid internship arises, I believe my chances of getting that internship increase by having that experience under my belt. Everyone has got to start somewhere."

Communication Studies Professor Michael Canepa, who worked at the San Diego Union-Tribune for over 30 years before switching to teaching, finds internships to be a key element in the experience of a college student.

"The number one objective of an internship is to

money is quite often an issue and a student might have to turn down the best opportunity for something that's paid. Either way, an internship shows initiative and looks impressive on a student's resume."

Some students can be enticed by a paid internship, even if it is only slightly related to their general career goals. However, it is often the case that a great internship opportunity arises, but the position is unpaid. Then, students are faced with prioritizing the opportunity to gain great experience, work with industry professionals, or get their foot in the door of an awesome company, with the need to save up some money. This can be a difficult decision for college students because the concert they want to attend or the new computer they may need does not accept experience as payment.

For college students, to have a reliable source of revenue is especially useful as they get older and begin to incur more expenses.

Senior Christina Rontell said she pays her own rent and has come to realize that being able to save some of the money she earns is quite useful.

"Having money saved up from working made my landlords more comfortable with my still-a-student status because she checked to see how much is in my account to make sure I had enough



Photo courtesy of Heng Films/Unsplash

to pay a few months rent in case I don't have full time work right away," Rontell said. "I have not had an unpaid internship. While I believe the experience would have been just as, if not [more], formative as the jobs I've had, I'm really glad I've never had an unpaid internship."

The experience someone gains from an unpaid internship may be very practical, but it is often times not as desired, as many students need to get by financially. This seems to be especially true for senior students, including Rontell, who has been earning a paycheck all throughout college. Now, she has the ability to rent a place of her own and can count on her own credit score to do it.

Junior Amber Morrow acknowledged that she takes more initiative in her current paid internship than

she did during her unpaid internship last summer.

"I wasn't that committed to my unpaid internship," Morrow said. "I treat my paid internship more as a job."

Ultimately, the choice students make between taking a paid or unpaid internship position depends on their circumstances. It also depends on their willingness to treat the unpaid position as an investment of their time, knowing that the skills and experience they gain will prepare them for a future opportunity within the company.

Sometimes accepting a paid position with a company for the instant satisfaction of getting a paycheck now, rather than later, is what students need. No matter your personal opinion, be on the lookout for the opportunities that will help propel you and your career goals forward.

"While I believe the experience would have been just as formative [...] as the jobs I've had, I'm really glad I've never had an unpaid internship."

-Christina Rontell

eventually a paid position. Sophomore Emily Patterson shared her personal experience about unpaid internships and claims they are a potential jumpstart to a career.

"When I lived in Japan, I accepted an unpaid internship

gain valuable experience in a real-life work environment," Canepa said. "So if money isn't an issue, then I would advise a student to take the best available opportunity — especially if it's in the field you want to pursue. Unfortunately,

Social media keeps students connected over summer

TARYN BEAUFORT
Asst. Opinion Editor

As summer is quickly approaching for University of San Diego students, the dreaded moment of saying goodbye to out-of-state friends is upon us.

Nowadays, summer doesn't have to mean a lack of communication between friends. Students have the option of choosing between various social media applications to keep in touch.

Social media has made a name for itself, becoming an integrated part of many students lives. Social media is used for various purposes depending on the individual, however, staying in constant communication appears to be a common theme.

Junior Madison Samuels reflected on her social media usage and determined that checking Instagram and Snapchat is part of her daily routine.

"Now that Snapchat, and even Instagram, have stories, I get to see what my friends are up to all the time—it's more instant," Samuels said. "I can talk to people I don't see often on Snapchat everyday and

stay more in touch with them."

Snapchat allows users to share "stories." For those who aren't seasoned users, a story is essentially a picture or video that is visible to you and your friends for up to 24 hours. As Samuels mentioned, the use of

"For me personally, I see most of my social media usage as recreational. If I need to communicate with someone, I would just directly contact them."

-Mallery Kiefus

stories can keep friends in the know of what others are doing.

While social media can be used to stay up to date on friend's activities, it can simultaneously function as a source of background information. Students can learn where someone is from, who their friends are, or their interests all by looking at a social media profile.

"You meet someone for the first time, and you are like, 'Oh, follow me on Instagram,'" Samuels said. "You get to see what kind of person they are, so you learn more about them personally."

Students seem to be more likely to meet friends online before meeting in person. First impressions are no longer confined to in-person

interactions. Today, students can use social media to 'research' new found friends.

At the beginning of the year when Samuels originally found out who her roommates were, the first thing she did was find them on Instagram.

Before she even received their number and contacted them, Samuels scrolled through Instagram and Facebook profiles and looked through all their photos.

"Yep, I crepted on them," Samuels said. "It really benefitted me because I was able to put a face to their name when I later contacted them."

On the other hand, sophomore CJ Garza said he tends to see social media applications as a complement to his everyday human interactions.

"I use Instagram more because it has a bigger population of people who use it that are our age," Garza said. "So it is easier for me to connect with those people on Instagram."

Garza explained that he uses his social media apps the same way he would interact with people face-to-face.

"The equivalent to saying 'hi' to someone in person is commenting on their photo or sending them a direct message on Instagram," Garza said. "Liking is too impersonal because some people get over 200 likes, that it just means nothing."

Through Garza's particular use of social media, he said he will be able to continue communicating with friends over summer without missing a beat.

Even though social media has come to replace some real life interactions for Garza, he shared that he recognizes the need to maintain real life social interactions.

"I feel like people rely on social media too much for their interactions," Garza said. "There has to be some sort of interaction in person or else the relationship between friends is meaningless if most interactions are through social media."

Garza said he won't let his use of social media come in between his real life interactions. Even though he plans to keep his presence on social media, he said it's crucial to make

the effort to speak directly with friends this summer.

Junior Mallery Kiefus seemed to go against the grain, seeing social media merely as a source of entertainment rather than an avenue for communication.

"I see most of my social media usage as recreational," Kiefus said. "If I need to communicate with someone, I would just directly contact them."

Although happy to reach out and actually have a communication with her friends when she wants to catch up, Kiefus will often find herself checking her social media accounts when taking a study break or in her downtime.

"If I see something really funny or relatable, I will tag my friends in the post," Kiefus said. "It is a subtle way to let them know I'm thinking about them without starting a conversation."

Students can say what they want about social media, but one advantage that can't be denied is the ability to connect with the masses from afar. Although seeing each other in person, chatting on the phone, or shooting someone a text, is still preferable, with social media students are given endless options to supplement their real life interactions.

SPORTS

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Gengenbacher named to collegiate national team

MATTHEW ROBERSON
Sports Editor

For many athletes, the chance to play for their country is one of the top honors they could possibly receive.

University of San Diego volleyball player Kristen Gengenbacher will get a chance to experience that sense of American pride this summer. Gengenbacher, a junior setter from Quincy, Ill., was one of 11 players selected for the U.S. Women's Collegiate National Team.

She traveled to Colorado Springs, Colo. in early March to try out for the team, which she disclosed was her third time going through the tryout process. The announcement that she officially made the team came earlier this month, with news that Gengenbacher and the team will train and compete in Europe from July 5 to 16.

Gengenbacher described the excitement she felt after learning one day after practice that she had been named to such a prestigious team.

"I looked at my phone after we had just gotten back from weights," Gengenbacher said. "I saw I had an email from USA Volleyball. [...] The subject line said 'USA Women's Volleyball Collegiate National Team.' I told my teammates, and everyone just tackled me in the locker room and gave me a big hug. It was awesome."

Making the team will not only provide Gengenbacher the chance to train and compete alongside some elite collegiate volleyball players, it will also allow her to explore a new part of the world.

The team will take part in the 13th Annual European Global Challenge from July 11 to 14 in Pula, Croatia, while tentatively training in Slovenia prior to the tournament.

Gengenbacher noted that she has never been anywhere on the continent of Europe.

"I've only been out of the country twice," Gengenbacher said. "[I went to] El Salvador



Photo courtesy of USA Volleyball/Twitter

Kristen Gengenbacher (81) goes up for a block at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

through the school, and my boyfriend's family has a house in Mexico. But I've never been overseas or anything. We land in Italy, and I know there's a day of sightseeing in Venice, so I've been asking all my friends who have gone abroad to Europe - what I should try to do in that time."

Torero volleyball head

"Our program is honored to have Kristen Gengenbacher selected to play with the collegiate national team traveling to Europe this summer," Petrie said. "She has worked tirelessly at her game, improved immensely over the past year, and we can't wait to see what her senior year has in store for her."

"I looked at my phone after we had just gotten back from weights. I saw I had an email from USA Volleyball. [...] The subject line said 'USA Women's Volleyball Collegiate National Team.' I told my teammates, and everyone just tackled me in the locker room and gave me a big hug. It was awesome."

-Kristen Gengenbacher

coach Jennifer Petrie spoke about this special accomplishment for one of her star players. She said that Gengenbacher playing with a national team this summer has raised her excitement about the setter's next season at USD.

Gengenbacher admitted that being on this team will do wonders for her confidence moving forward, which Torero fans hope can result in a deep NCAA Tournament run at the end of her senior season. She said that getting

validation for her long hours in the gym helps her know that she belongs with the top flight competition that women's collegiate volleyball has to offer.

"It definitely helps me know that I can play with the best," Gengenbacher said. "I can bring the skills that I learn with [the USA team] back to my team [at USD] and make them better."

Gengenbacher made sure to emphasize the importance of her team in helping her get to this point, as well as the coaching staff that constantly helped her get better.

"I really can't reiterate enough how much my own team has helped me," Gengenbacher said. "My coaches have helped me get to the place I am today. It's just a really exciting time for me right now, and I can't wait to meet all these different people and get better at my game, and then

the tryout," Gengenbacher said. "It'll be really fun to get to know her more. She's always been a competitor, [so] being on the same team will be really exciting."

When meeting with Gengenbacher and talking about her upcoming summer, the word "excitement" came up several times. Sitting in her USD volleyball crewneck sweatshirt, talking about playing in Europe with the best NCAA players the country has to offer, Gengenbacher radiated excitement and eagerness.

It was evident very quickly how much the honor means to her and how ready she is to get things going.

"[Making the team] really opened my eyes to the opportunities that are out there," Gengenbacher said. "In practice, [the Collegiate National Team] was something

"[Gengenbacher] has worked tirelessly at her game, improved immensely over the past year, and we can't wait to see what her senior year has in store for her."

-Jennifer Petrie

bring that back to USD and hopefully win a conference championship next year."

During her time wearing the Torero uniform, Gengenbacher has been a part of 55 wins and four NCAA Tournament matches. She also took the court multiple times against Taira Robins-Hardy of the conference rival Brigham Young Cougars, the other setter selected for the Collegiate National Team.

"We actually met at

that was always a motivating factor. It was always in the back of my mind, not only to make my team here better, but also to represent my country in a way that is very much an honor."

While her focus will surely shift entirely to the USA team soon, knowing that Gengenbacher sees the opportunity as a way to improve her team here at Alcalá Park is something that Torero volleyball fans should embrace.

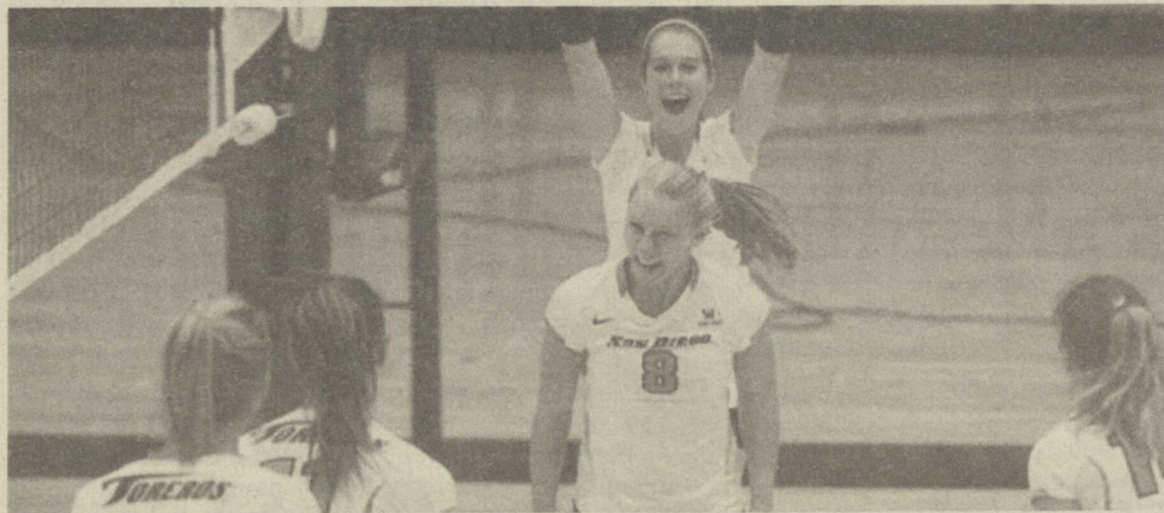
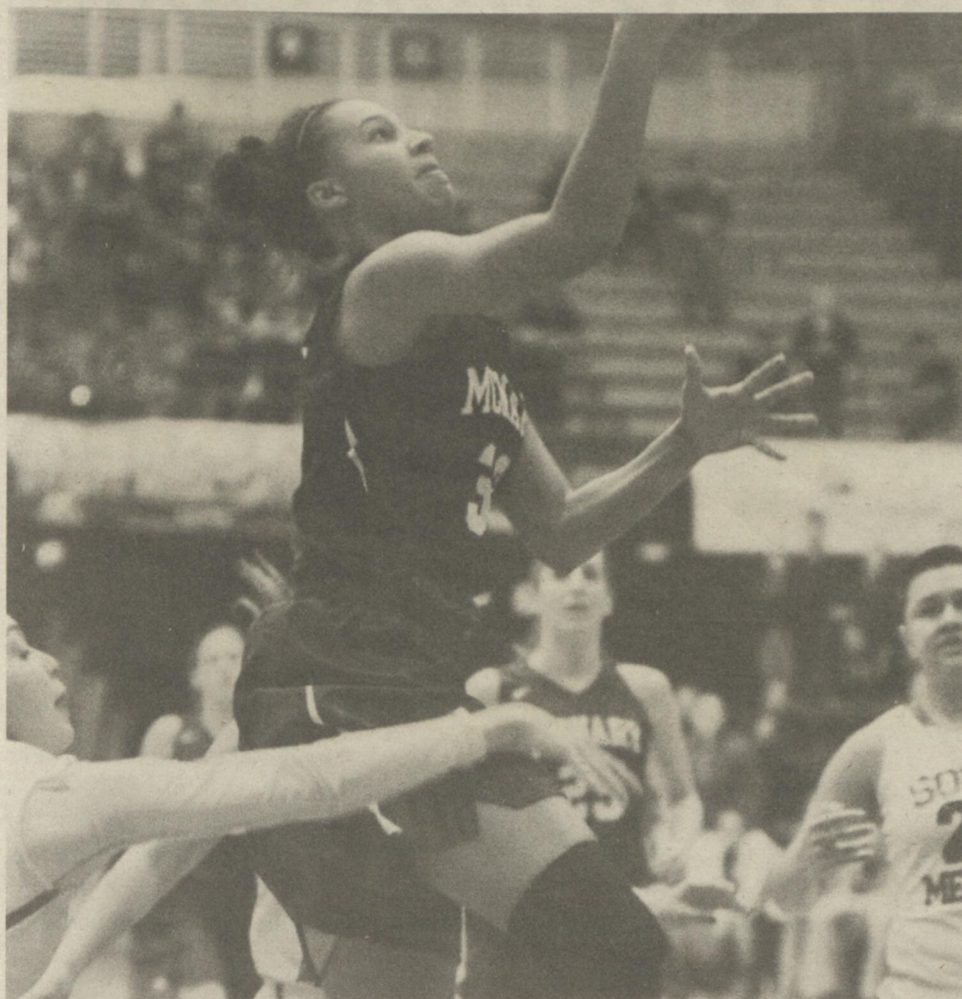


Photo courtesy of USD Toreros

Gengenbacher (8) celebrates with her teammates during play at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Women's basketball welcomes 2017 recruiting class



Photos courtesy of USD Toreros

Hunter hails from Kiezer, Ore., where she averaged 14.6 points per game as a senior (left). Bird played high school basketball in Buckley, Wash. (right).

ANDERSON HAIGLER
Contributor

As the University of San Diego Toreros women's basketball team looks ahead to their upcoming season, the incoming recruiting class provides a lot to be optimistic about.

The recruiting class is headlined by high school seniors Kendall Bird, Myah Pace, and Sydney Hunter, all of whom had impressive senior seasons.

Kendall Bird, a 6'2" forward from White River High School in Buckley, Wash., led her team to a 24-4 record and a sixth place finish in the 2A state tournament in her senior season.

Following her senior year at White River High School, Bird received numerous awards, including the Associated Press 2A Washington State Player of the Year, and the Washington State Girls Basketball Coaches 2A Player of the Year. Bird was also recognized as the 2A South Puget Sound League MVP and the 2A The News Tribune All-Area Player of the Year.

Myah Pace, a 5'10" combo guard from Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, Calif., also led her team to a conference championship, winning the West Alameda County Conference League Championship and reaching the NCS Division Three championship game. Pace averaged a double-double, scoring 15 points and collecting 12 rebounds a game.

She became the second player in Bishop O'Dowd's history to tally 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds. Pace, who is currently ranked as the No. 65 recruit in the

country, was named to the All-Bay Area News Group first team while also taking home the CIF North Coast Section Female Basketball Player of the Year award following her senior season.

Pace said it was the people who drew her to USD.

"The coaches have always believed in me since the beginning of my recruiting journey," Pace said. "All of the coaches and players are great and competitive people."

She also spoke highly of the overall environment of the campus as a big influence in her decision to commit to USD.

"I think my official visit solidified why I wanted to be a part of the USD family," Pace said. "The girls were so nice and welcoming, and I had a lot of fun on campus meeting all the different people. It let me know that I could definitely see myself spending the next four years at USD."

Sydney Hunter's senior season was stellar as well. Hunter, a 6'0" guard from

McNary High School in Keizer, Ore., averaged a double-double with 14.6 points per game and 12.0 rebounds per game, also dishing out three assists per game, 2.5 steals per game, and an average of one block per contest.

For the third year in a row, Hunter was named to the All-Greater Valley Conference, also making the American Family Insurance All-USA Mid-Valley First Team.

Following the graduation of backcourt starters Cori Woodward and Katherine Hamilton, the Toreros will expect all three players to contribute immediately.

"I'm really looking forward to just competing and working hard," Myah Pace said. "I'm just ready to come in and contribute in whatever ways I can."

The upcoming season for head coach Cindy Fisher's team should be an exciting one. This trio of talented future Toreros should provide excitement at the Jenny Craig Pavilion for years to come.



Photo courtesy of USD Toreros

Guard Myah Pace was the No. 65 recruit in the nation.



Photo courtesy of USD WBB/Twitter

Head coach Cindy Fisher and the Toreros will welcome plenty of young talent to the JCP court next season.

Jamal Agnew drafted by Detroit Lions



Photo courtesy of USD Toreros/Twitter

USD's career leader in passes defended, Jamal Agnew, is the first Torero to be drafted since quarterback Josh Johnson in 2008.

JAKE ELLIS
Contributor

Imagine you are back in your younger days just starting to play sports. Whenever you go out on that field, you always dream you are one day going to be playing in the pros.

This past weekend, that dream became a reality for Jamal Agnew, a senior cornerback for the University of San Diego Torero football team.

"I think when I really realized [the NFL] could be a reality was after we played San Diego State [in 2015]. It just made me feel 'These guys are on full-ride scholarships and these guys weren't anything special. If I can dominate on this level then I can definitely dominate the next level.'"

-Jamal Agnew

Agnew received outstanding news when he found out that the Detroit Lions made him the 165th player selected in this year's NFL draft. He is the second Torero in history to be drafted. In 2008, Josh Johnson was selected in the fifth round by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Not many NFL players are produced by schools with student populations as small as USD's. When Agnew found out he was drafted, he could not contain his excitement.

He thanked Lions' owner Martha Ford, general manager Bob Quinn, and head coach Jim Caldwell in a conference call after learning he had been drafted.

"You have no idea how excited me and my family are right now," Agnew said. "We're beyond tired. First of all, I want to thank Mrs. Ford, Mr. Quinn, and Jim Caldwell for the opportunity to be a Detroit Lion. I went out there in mid-April. It was a good visit. I met the coaching staff and GM and had a great time. I got a feel for what the culture was like out there."

Agnew, who was a

two-time defensive MVP and a first team All-Pioneer League performer in 2016, finished his tremendous USD career as the program's all-time leader in passes defended with a whopping 59.

In 44 career games that he suited up for the Toreros, he totaled 148 tackles, 118 of which were solo, with 12.5 tackles for loss, one fumble recovery, and 11 interceptions.

Agnew told The USD Vista he realized his potential after a game against a crosstown rival.

"I think when I really realized it could be a reality was after we played San Diego State [in 2015]," Agnew said. "It just made me feel 'These guys are on full-ride scholarships and these guys weren't anything special. If I can dominate on this level then I can definitely dominate the next level.'"

While being drafted is an unbelievable blessing, it also carries a bit of a burden in regard to his final exams.

"Mini camp starts on May 12," Agnew said. "I'll be flying out there the day before and stuff will kick off from there. I actually might have to fly back for finals, but I'm trying to see if I can take them a little bit early."

Agnew also mentioned that Torero teammate Jonah Hodges received an invite to the Lions' rookie mini camp.

"He's excited," Agnew said. "That's the rookie mini camp that starts next week. It's like three days [long], and then after those three days they see if he makes the team. Jonah is a hell of a player. He'll definitely make the roster."

Agnew always had a

dream of playing in the NFL, but when draft day came around, he said it didn't change much about his day to day life.

"My life hasn't really changed," Agnew said. "I'm still the same person. I'm still talking to the same people. Nothing's really changed that much."

Part of what made his draft day experience so special was the fact that he got to share it with a beloved family member.

"My grandma has been real sick lately," Agnew said. "She's on hospice rest, so we all met up at her house and just celebrated."

Even though his grandmother was not well, he knew that she would not miss out on this special day. Agnew said his grandmother is one of the most important people in his life.

He explained that when she found out her grandson would be fulfilling one of his childhood dreams, his grandmother understood the magnitude of the moment.

"Yeah, she is beyond happy for me," Agnew said. "She was lost for words honestly. Like, literally at a loss for words."

For many people, moving away from Southern California

can be a difficult thing to adjust to and may create some uncertainty. Agnew said that he is confident he won't have any trouble being away.

"I have no problems with it," Agnew said. "You know, in college we traveled all around the country. We went to New York, [and] we went to the Midwest multiple times a year. We went to Florida, we went to North Carolina, we went everywhere. I honestly like the Midwest. San Diego's weather is nice, but you cannot have it perfect all the time."

While there are still hours upon hours of work to be done before he can take the field as an NFL player, no one would blame Agnew for thinking he may now have something perfect all the time: an NFL contract and a chance to showcase his skills as a Detroit Lion. However, he says his first paycheck will go toward something many USD students can relate to.

"Oh, I'm definitely trying to pay off some student loans," Agnew said. "I got a pretty good car now. Other than housing out there in Detroit, I'm definitely spending my money on paying off these student loans at USD."



Photo courtesy of USD Toreros

Agnew's athleticism and nose for the ball will make him an asset in the Lions' secondary.